



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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**SEPTUAGENARIAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
DEALING CRACK**

HOUSTON, TX – Eskico Truman Garner, 75, of Texas City, was sentenced to more than 30 years in federal prison, without parole, for trafficking in crack cocaine, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today. Convicted by a jury's verdict in March 2006 of conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, Garner faced United States District Judge Keith Ellison on Thursday, July 20, 2006, for sentencing. Because the United States had previously filed pleadings seeking to increase the mandatory minimum sentence based upon his prior felony drug conviction, Garner faced no less than 20 years in prison. After consideration of the amount of drugs involved, Garner's criminal history and his role in the offense, Judge Ellison ordered Garner to service a prison term of 405 months.

During the three-day trial that led to Garner's conviction, a Houston jury heard evidence proving that between October 2004 through the end of April 2005, Garner and his wife, Carol Richardson, conspired with others and conducted multiple crack cocaine sales and transactions. During each transaction, the Drug Enforcement Administration used a confidential informant to purchase crack cocaine from Garner, Richardson and three other co-conspirators. The total amount of crack cocaine purchased was over 200 grams.

Garner's wife, Carol Richardson, who had two prior felony drug convictions, was sentenced to a mandatory term of life imprisonment on June 16, 2006, for her role in the conspiracy.

The investigation leading to the charges was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ted Imperato.

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